Prices of petroleum products

†662. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times, as on date, the prices of petroleum products were increased during the lastthree years:

(b) the reasons behind increasing the prices of petroleum products time and again; and

(c) the status of prices of petroleum products as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) There has been no increase in the basic price of PDS kerosene since March 2002 and domestic LPG since November 2004 despite huge increase in price of these products in the international market. The details of hike in retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products at Delhi during the last three years are given as under:

Prices Revision effected from*	Petrol (Rs./Ltr.)	Diesel (Rs./Ltr.)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cyl.)
16/04/03	(1.00)	(1.00)	—
27/04/03	(1.00)	(1.00)	—
16/05/03	(1.10)	(0.95)	—
01/06/03	(0.10)	(0.10)	—
01/09/03	2.10	1.25	—
16/10/03	(0.70)	(0.60)	—
16/12/03	1.00	1.00	—
01/01/04	1.00	1.00	—
16/06/04	2.00	1.00	20.00
01/08/04	1.10	1.42	—
05/11/04	2.19	2.12	20.00
16/11/04	(1.16)	—	—
21/06/05	2.50	2.00	—
07/09/05.	3.00	2.00	—
06/06/06	4.00	2.00	—

Figures within brackets indicate reduction in prices.

*The price revisions effected on account of VAT implementation/revision in VAT rate, siding/shunting charges, local transportation charges etc. have not been given in the above table.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The prices of petroleum products have been raised on several occasions when crude prices in international markets have increased in the past years. However, these increases have been much less than the increases required corresponding to prices of crude in the international market.

During 2006, retail price of petrol and diesel have been increased only once. Retail prices of petrol and diesel were increased only partially and not in line with the then prevailing international oil prices. No increase has been made in retail prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

The Indian basket of crude oils was at about $ 67/ bbl when the last increase in prices of petrol anddiesel in June 2006 was made. The prices went up to $ 75/ bbkl in August this year. The Government, however, did not raise the domestic retail prices and the additional burden was borne by the Government and the oil PSUs.

(c) The current retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products at Delhi are given as under:

Petrol	Rs. 46.85/Litre
Diesel	Rs. 32.25/Litre
Domestic LPG	Rs. 294.75/Cylinder
PDS kerosene	Rs. 9.09/Litre

Exodus of employees in public sector oil companies

663. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of public sector oil companies are quitting their job;

(b) if so, the number of employees quitting during the last five years;

(c) whether Government have counterchecked the reasons for it; and

(d) what are the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As intimated by the